



## Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana & NFSA Integration

**For Prelims:** Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011, National Food Security Act (NFSA) portal, Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

**For Mains:** Government Policies & Interventions, Central Sector Schemes, Health, Human Resource, Intended Benefits of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana & NFSA Integration

### Why in News?

Recently, the Union Health Ministry has said that the **National Health Authority (NHA)** is working to integrate the database of **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011** beneficiaries with the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) portal**.

- This step envisages that beneficiaries can seek information regarding their entitlements under the **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** using their ration card number.

### What is NHA?

- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the **Society Registration Act, 1860** for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
  - Inter-alia, this will include, formulation of AB PMJAY policies, development of operational guidelines, implementation mechanisms, coordination with state governments, monitoring and oversight of AB PMJAY amongst other.
- The **State Health Agency (SHA)** is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.

### What are the Intended Benefits of this Proposal?

- **Integrating Fair Price Shops With Health:** The proposal will allow NHA to use Fair Price Shops or ration shops for providing information related to the scheme and entitlement under the scheme to eligible beneficiaries.
- **Developing More Service Points:** This will provide an additional avenue to beneficiaries along with the existing Common Service Center for card creation.
  - This will make the beneficiary identification process very convenient.
- **Common Identity Enabler:** **Aadhaar** being a common identity across the majority of government databases will enable this integration.
  - Further, Aadhaar also ensures certainty regarding beneficiary identification through e-KYC.
  - e-KYC enables paperless delivery of services in a targeted manner.
- **Cross-Platform Integration:** The NHA will collaborate with various ministries implementing

welfare schemes to **strengthen the different aspects of scheme** implementation including beneficiary awareness campaigns, beneficiary database (SECC 2011) enrichment etc.

- **Towards Universal Health Coverage:** The vast ambition of the **AB-PMJAY programme** presents an opportunity to **pursue the systemic reform** that India requires to meet its **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** aims.

## What are the Major Provisions of AB PM-JAY?

- **AB PM-JAY** offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family** for secondary care as well as tertiary care, **under a cashless and paperless access to health services framework**.
- Under PMJAY, cashless and paperless access to services are provided to the beneficiaries at the point of service.
- **Health Benefit Packages** covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
  - **Packaged rates** (Rates that include everything so that each product or service is not charged for separately).
  - They are **flexible**, but they can't charge the beneficiary once fixed by the hospitals.
  - The scheme also has prescribed **a daily limit for medical management**.
- It is an **entitlement-based scheme** that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest SECC data.

## What are the Main Features of the NFSA 2013?

- **Objective:** To provide **for food and nutritional security** in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Coverage:** 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.
  - Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- **Major Provisions:**
  - 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at **Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**.
  - Meal and maternity benefit of not less than **Rs. 6,000** to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
  - **Meals** for children upto 14 years of age.
  - **Food security allowance** to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
  - Setting up of **grievance redressal mechanisms** at the district and state level.

**Source: TH**

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